



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FEBRUARY 13, 2004**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **COOK PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO MANUFACTURE METH IN BOONE, GREENE COUNTIES**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

**Keith Major Shearin**, 34, who currently lives in Springfield and previously lived in Columbia, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to five counts of a second superseding indictment, including conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine.

By pleading guilty, **Shearin** admitted that he was involved in the unlawful manufacturing of methamphetamine and a conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine beginning as early as March 15, 2001, and continuing until about Feb. 19, 2003.

**Shearin** also admitted that he possessed pseudoephedrine knowing it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine on July 17, 2002, and Dec. 20, 2002, in Boone County, Mo. **Shearin** also admitted that he manufactured methamphetamine on the specific dates of Oct. 9, 2002, and Feb. 19, 2003, in Greene County, Mo.

**Shearin** was initially arrested following a search of his residence by law enforcement officers on July 17, 2002. During the first search, officers discovered various materials and devices used to manufacture methamphetamine, including 54.11 grams of actual pseudoephedrine, lithium batteries, salt, scales and assorted glassware, among other items. **Shearin** was later arrested again at another active methamphetamine laboratory, located in a field, on Feb. 19, 2003. Law enforcement officers had searched his residence again on Aug. 22, 2002, and Sept. 16, 2002, his vehicle on Oct. 1, 2002, and a hotel room occupied by him on Oct. 10, 2002. All of the searches resulted in the discovery of additional materials and devices used in the manufacture and use of methamphetamine. During the searches, officers also discovered a 9

mm semi-automatic handgun in a safe in the defendant's house.

**Shearin** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 26, 2003, in Jefferson City. That indictment was later replaced by a superseding indictment and then a second superseding indictment.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Shearin** may be subject to a minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole up to life in prison without parole. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney C. Douglas Shull. It was investigated by the Columbia, Mo., Police Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Greene County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Clinton, Mo., Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, MUSTANG, the Mid-Missouri Unified Strike Team And Narcotics Group, and COMET, the Combined Ozarks Multi-Jurisdictional Enforcement Team.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
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